



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign is "I Ask," empowering everyone to put consent into practice and share the message that asking for consent is normal and necessary; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the impact of sexual violence in communities across the state and nation, raising public awareness and educating communities on how to prevent it; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, the cost of sexual violence over a lifetime per victim is \$122,461 nationwide and includes criminal justice costs, property loss or damage, loss of work productivity, and short-and-long term physical and mental health treatment for victims; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one in five women and one in 71 men in the United States will be sexually assaulted at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement, from July 2018 – June 2019, North Carolina rape crisis centers served more than 10,000 individuals, including 2,446 children under the age of 18, and received 24,650 hotline calls; and

WHEREAS, people who are a part of marginalized communities or hold marginalized identities often are at higher risk for experiencing sexual violence and have more limited access to services that will support meaningful pathways to healing and justice; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault and rape crisis advocates across our state remain committed to ending sexual violence by continuing to be allies in all anti-oppression movements, realizing that we cannot truly end sexual violence without also ending all forms of oppression; and

WHEREAS, our voices have power and should be used to support survivors and end sexual violence; individuals, advocates, allies, and those in a position to facilitate change at the highest levels can use their voices to show their support for survivors, stand up to victim blaming and discrimination, shut down jokes about sexual assault, correct harmful misconceptions, promote everyday consent, and practice healthy communication with children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April, 2020, as "**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirty-first day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.